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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Del Rio Sector agents apprehend fewer immigrants, seize more narcotics in Fiscal Year 2002**

**DEL RIO, Texas** -- Del Rio Sector apprehensions of illegal immigrants dropped 36 percent in Fiscal Year 2002, while the volume of seized marijuana and cocaine increased.

Statistics show that Del Rio Sector Border Patrol Agents apprehended 66,985 illegal immigrants in Fiscal Year 2002, which ended Sept. 30. The number of illegal immigrants apprehended in FY 2002 represents the lowest volume of apprehensions for a single fiscal year since 1994, the year the Border Patrol implemented a National Strategy to regain control of the Nation's borders.

The reduction in apprehensions in FY 2002 can be attributed to a wide range of factors that led to fewer attempted illegal crossings in the area. These include the "events of Sept. 11"; increased vigilance and border security tactics that have been implemented over the past few years; and economic variables on both sides of the border.

Statistics also reveal that Del Rio Sector agents seized 48,930 pounds of marijuana and 623 pounds of cocaine. This compares to 49,447 pounds of marijuana and 560 pounds of cocaine in FY 2001. Total value of all drugs seized during FY 2002 was \$59,572,021, which is an increase of 2.9 percent compared to FY2001 seizures valued at \$57,852,238.

A total of 33 deaths of illegal immigrants were recorded in FY 2002, while Agents rescued more than 60 immigrants in distress. In FY 2001, 43 immigrants lost their lives in the Del Rio Sector, and agents rescued more than 100 immigrants. Most of the deaths were the result of actions taken by alien smugglers, and their callous disregard for human life.

Since the attacks on the United States on 9-11-01, Del Rio Sector agents remain on high alert. Border Patrol agents have stepped up their vigilance in the form of intensified patrols along the immediate border; provided assistance to the Immigration and Naturalization Service at international ports-of-entry; provided security assistance at U.S. metropolitan airports and at the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City; and increased communication and exchange of information among law enforcement agencies.

~ USBP ~

NOTE: For a breakdown of apprehensions by station within the Del Rio Sector, consult "FY 2002 Statistical Report" that can be found on this website under Press Information/Statistics.